formal description conveys how inodes are found on disk and how to extract information from them (p.7, ll. 15-16). Solits does not describe or suggest such a feature.

In particular, the examiner refers to column 6, lines 10-15 of Solits, which states that "clients can access storage devices directly." This section does not disclose that to do so the clients read a formal description of the file system. Rather, it simply describes the sorts of file systems that may be used.

The examiner also refers to column 11, lines 50-60, which describe the details of a particular file system: "Fig. 5 also illustrates a hierarchical or other organizational arrangement such as ... directory tree 520." This section does not disclose that a formal description of such a file system is read by the client. In fact, it does not address whether the client has any awareness of the nature of the file system.

The examiner next refers to column 12, lines 10-15, in which Solits describes a superblock which contains information describing the location of resources in the file system. Again, Solits does not disclose that this superblock constitutes a formal description of the file system itself or that reading it would enable a client to determine file information on its own.

Finally, the examiner refers to column 14, lines 55-60, where Solits describes locks that are used "to maintain access control of real data or file system metadata located on shared resources." Like the others, this section does not disclose that a formal description of the file system is read by the client.

None of the sections of Solits cited by the examiner, nor any other part of Solits, describe or suggest reading a description of the file system from the storage device. For this reason, we submit that independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from Solits.

The Examiner also rejected claims 16-27 as anticipated by Solits. We submit that Solits neither describes nor suggests "acquiring a description of a file system associated with a storage resource from the storage resource" as required by independent claims 16, 20, and 25. As with claim 1, no part of Solits describes this feature, hence we submit that claims 16, 21, and 25 are patentably distinct from Solits.
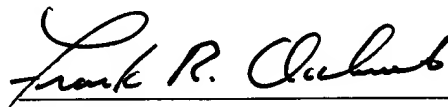
We further submit that because claims 2-3 and 6-9 depend from independent claim 1;

claims 17-19 depend from independent claim 16; claims 21-24 depend from independent claim

20; and claims 26-27 depend from independent claim 25, these dependent claims are allowable

over Solits for at least the same reasons that independent claims 1, 16, 20, and 25 are allowable.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 12, 2004

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